

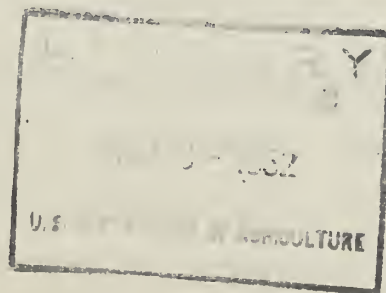
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16 MILLION
BALES OF COTTON
NEEDED IN 1952

The need for a large production of cotton is as great as it was a year ago. We must have a 16-million-bale crop in 1952 if we are to have enough cotton to meet our domestic needs, to supply the export market, and to maintain a minimum carryover. A crop smaller than 16 million bales could mean restricted exports or short supplies at home.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

When the 1952 crop starts to market in volume, our cotton carryover will be to about 2 million bales — as small as the carryover should be allowed to go. This means that the cotton we use in the next marketing season must come almost entirely from the 1952 crop.

The best information available at this time indicates that strong domestic and foreign demand for cotton will continue — that 10 million bales must be allowed for domestic use and 5.5 million bales for export in the next marketing year beginning August 1, 1952. In view of the present unsettled world conditions, our reserve stocks of cotton should be increased above 2 million bales if at all possible. Therefore, a 16-million-bale crop is needed in 1952 to meet expected market demands, and to make a small increase in our reserve supplies.

A 16-million-bale crop can be produced on 28 million acres. To do this, however, the national average yield must be increased, by good production practices, to about 280 pounds — 12 pounds per acre higher than the recent 5-year (1946-50) average. Last year we got 15.2 million bales from about 28 million acres.

Higher yields per acre mean larger net returns on most farms. Plant cotton on land most suited to cotton production, and farm it to get the largest possible return from your investment and labor.

Remember, orderly marketing of your crop will help stabilize the market. Commodity Credit Corporation loans will be available to cotton producers. The loans provide cash for immediate use and are the means through which producers can supply the market without glutting it.

The following measures will help you get higher yields and increase total cotton production:

1. Use land that you know is good cotton land.
2. Use good quality, clean seed of a variety recommended for your locality.
3. Get your fertilizer and at least a part of your insecticides as soon as possible. Buy and use defoliants if desirable. In using these materials follow recommendations by local leaders, with special attention to the best known methods for fertilizer application.
4. Check your machinery and equipment and make repairs well ahead of the time the equipment will be needed.
5. Make maximum use of mechanical equipment to supplement scarce hand labor.
6. Cooperate with your ginner. Harvest properly so that a good ginning job can be done.
7. Increase use of soil- and moisture-conserving practices.

Seed a larger acreage of winter legumes or other winter cover crops this fall, and use them for green manure in 1953. A high level of production will be needed for several years — for livestock feed, if not for cotton.

Here's the supply situation on materials and facilities for production.

Fertilizer — Although somewhat larger supplies of nitrate and potash will be available than a year ago, phosphate supplies will be smaller. The demand for all types of fertilizers is expected to exceed the supply. Ordering early will help distribution and keep supplies moving.

Insecticides — Sufficient supplies are expected to be available if farmers order at least minimum supplies early. This will help keep supply lines open. Producers may be caught short if they wait until the poison is needed. If they pay close attention to the crop from the start, they will be prepared to begin treatment quickly when insect infestation appears.

Machinery and Equipment — A close supply situation for most items and shortages of some are indicated. This is especially true of items requiring copper and certain other scarce materials. Sprayers, dusters, and portable irrigation equipment may be short. However, mechanical pickers and strippers are expected to be adequate. Machinery should be checked and repaired early.

An increase in livestock feed production is also urgently needed in 1952. After cotton farmers have planned a high-yielding cotton acreage in line with their State cotton goal, they are urged to give consideration to increasing the acreage and yields of grain and forage for livestock feed.